

## Washington's System of Care Expansion Planning Grant Update

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On January 31, 2012 the DSHS Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery completed the first 90 days of the System of Care (SOC) Expansion Planning Grant. This was marked by submitting progress and achievements in our 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Transformational Accountability (TRAC) Report to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Government Project Officer.

The Purpose of the SOC Grant is to develop a comprehensive plan to expand systems of care statewide through partnerships among family, youth, community and state organizations. Our state partners include: the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction), Department of Health, Health Care Authority, and the DSHS Children's Administration, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, Chemical Dependency Services, Division of Development Disabilities, and Children's Mental Health Services. Other SOC leaders involved in activities that contribute to the grant efforts include members of the Tulalip Tribe and school district personnel throughout the state.

The five goals of the Washington SOC Grant are to:

1. Infuse SOC values in all systems for children, youth, and families.
2. Ensure services are seamless for children, youth and their families.
3. Build access and availability of home and community-based services.
4. Develop and strengthen a workforce that operationalizes SOC values.
5. Build a strong data management system to inform decision-making and track outcomes.

In our TRAC report we identified over 200 SOC-related activities and events. Our work demonstrates the commitment and energy of family, youth, community, tribal, and system partners to create a network of effective community-based services and systems support to improve the lives of children and youth with mental health conditions and their families. Exemplary efforts were made throughout the state.

Washington State's entries into the TRAC System include examples of outreach, curriculum development, Wraparound training, memoranda of understanding, cross-system partnerships and collaborations, and family and youth leadership. A sample of the entries follows:

- **Youth N' Action Eastern WA Staff and Youth Meeting:** The SOC Grant Director met with 15 Youth N' Action Eastern WA staff and youth, which is a state funded Transition Age Youth advocacy group, to discuss and begin the planning process for how youth and their youth leaders will become partners in the SOC project.
- **OSPI MOU Partnership Meeting:** OSPI met with the Manitou Park School principal and others at Manitou Park, which has been a leader in Compassionate Schools and SOC work. Participants are aware of the new planning grant award to WA and are brainstorming ways to integrate behavioral health into their work activities to assure comprehensive learning and well-being services for children and youth.

- **UW Consultant Drafts Legislation (HB2536):** The SOC Grant UW Consultant participated in drafting new legislation (HB2536). Their documentation supports Evidence Based Practices (EBP), Wraparound, and SOC in Washington.
- **Adolescent Training Track for Children's Administration Social Workers:** This will train staff in the mental health needs of adolescents in foster care and how to access mental health services.
- **DSHS Regional Support Network Director's Monthly Meeting.** The SOC Planning Grant Director, Andrea Parrish, provided handouts and an overview of SOC principles/values and our state grant goals at the Regional Support Network Administrators' monthly meeting. Agenda actions included: partnership, collaboration and outreach with DBHR's RSN Administrators, discussed future contract changes, system delivery changes to improve access across the state, and developing child and family teams.
- **Department of Health Community Asset Mapping and Planning:** This project goes out into community coalitions and helps connect communities to larger systems. Planning for how SOC will be woven into community work. Staff involved with this project comes from UW and DOH.
- **Three-Rivers Wraparound Family Coordinator Meeting:** The DBHR Family Liaison, Jeanette Barnes, met with the Three-Rivers Wraparound Family Coordinator to initiate engagement to get support and involvement for family and youth participation in the grant planning activities.
- **The Cross System Issues Work Group Initiated:** The Cross System Issues Work Group was initiated to bring partner agencies together to address case-specific issues, policy changes, and system issues related to high-needs, high-complexity cases.
- **Statement of Work for 4 Regional Organizing Groups:** A statement of work was completed for each of four Regional Organizing Groups identified to lead the Family, Youth and System Partners Round Table (FYSPRT).

The success of the one year SOC Expansion Planning Grant, and the prospect of a future grant to support the implementation of the WA SOC comprehensive plan, is dependent on creating sustainability for the statewide individual and collaborative SOC efforts. The measures of our success in making system changes in the categories of Policy Development, Partnership and Collaborations, and Accountability will be the final evaluation by the SAMHSA Government Project Officer. The regularly scheduled interactions with the SAMHSA GPO/SOC Coach assigned to Washington State, and the availability of SAMHSA Technical Assistance (TA) specialists, provide extensive support to accomplish Washington State's SOC goals and fulfill the grant requirements.

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